**Executive Order #13228**

**Creation of the Department of Homeland Security**

**President: George W. Bush**

**Year: 2001**

**Executive Order Summary**

On October 8, 2001, President Bush issued Executive Order 13228establishing the [Office of Homeland Security](http://itlaw.wikia.com/wiki/Office_of_Homeland_Security) within the Executive Office of the President and the [Homeland Security Council](http://itlaw.wikia.com/wiki/Homeland_Security_Council). It stated that the [Office of Homeland Security](http://itlaw.wikia.com/wiki/Office_of_Homeland_Security) was “to develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to secure the United States from [terrorist](http://itlaw.wikia.com/wiki/Terrorist) [threats](http://itlaw.wikia.com/wiki/Threat) or attacks.” In addition, EO 13228 stated that, among other things, the [Office of Homeland Security](http://itlaw.wikia.com/wiki/Office_of_Homeland_Security) was to coordinate efforts to protect critical public and privately owned [information systems](http://itlaw.wikia.com/wiki/Information_system) within the United States from [terrorist](http://itlaw.wikia.com/wiki/Terrorist) attacks.

**Historical Background Information**

Before the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security, homeland security activities were spread across more than 40 federal agencies and an estimated 2,000 separate Congressional appropriations accounts. In February 2001, the U.S. Commission on National Security recommended the creation of a new National Homeland Security Agency to consolidate and refine the missions of the different departments and agencies that had a role in U.S. homeland security.

In March 2001, Representative Mac Thornberry (R-TX) proposed a bill to create a National Homeland Security Agency. The bill combined FEMA, Customs, the Border Patrol, and several infrastructure offices into one agency responsible for homeland security-related activities. Hearings were held, but Congress took no further action on the bill.

Eleven days after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, President George W. Bush announced that he would create an Office of Homeland Security in the White House and appoint Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge as the director. The office would oversee and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard the country against terrorism, and respond to any future attacks.

**Presidential Justification of Action**

In order to keep Americans safe, policies and systems have to be in place to stop attacks and prevent our resources from being overwhelmed. In addition, homeland security keeps the United States prepared for natural disasters. Homeland security is often about learning from mistakes. Today’s policies and systems are set in place to avoid events like 9/11 and to better prepare for natural disasters like Katrina to save lives and avoid damage. The role of homeland security is constantly evolving to keep up with the needs of the country.

**Opposition to the Executive Order**

In 2002, intelligence expert James Bamford says the creation of DHS is a knee-jerk reaction to the 9/11 attacks, done for public relations purposes, created in a rush, and it doesn't fix the system for sharing intelligence. He claims it not only won't increase efficiency, but may turn out to be worse than no change at all.  "Instead of moving people together you should be moving information together," Bamford says. "You should be taking information and finding better ways to distribute it; faster ways to distribute it among people."